MR. CHAIRMAN: You leave me with no choice but to adjourn the House till 12 o'clock.

The House then adjourned at six minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembeld at twelve of the clock MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Problems with acquiring Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier

*141. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) The problems that India is encountering with acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier;

(b) whether it is a fact that Russia is demanding more money for refurbishing and delivering the same by August, 2008;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Defence Minister is going to visit Russia in October, 2007, to discuss various aspects of Gorshkov deal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Construction or repair and re-equipping of an aircraft carrier is a complex exercise. It not only involves construction/repair of the platform but also fitment of a large number of systems, assemblies, and subassemblies. In any project of such nature, coordination with a large number of agencies is involved. At times, many problems arise due to various reasons which are resolved through interactions between the agencies concerned. It is apprehended that some delay may take place in the project due to unforeseen problems.

At present, the Russian authorities are seized of the issue of timely delivery of the ship.

Payments relating to certain works are negotiable under the contract. Details in this regard would be available only after negotiations are complete.

The Raksha Mantri is expected to visit Russia in October, 2007 in connection with the annual meeting of the India-Russia Inter Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation in which Indian Defence Minister is the co-chairman along with the Defence Minister of Russia. During this meeting, various issues relating to India-Russia military cooperation would be discussed.